



Agricultural Initiative at Casey Farm Request for Proposals - 2008

In its continued efforts to steward land well, the Liberty Prairie Conservancy seeks to shift 20 acres of agricultural fields at Casey Farm in Libertyville, Illinois from traditional production to a more sustainable method. The goals are to:

- Raise the standard of soil and water conservation practices.
- Establish an operation that can thrive on the small scale called for by a suburban landscape.
- Enhance regional biodiversity through methods that support native birds, insects and other wildlife, including the aquatic fauna of the property's creek.

This document describes the property and the process for submitting proposals.

Deadline for proposals

4 PM, Monday, September 15, 2008



Liberty Prairie Conservancy
32400 N Harris Road, Grayslake, Illinois 60048
847.548.5989
www.libertyprairie.org

Project Description

The Liberty Prairie Conservancy seeks to shift 20 acres of agricultural fields at Casey Farm in Libertyville, Illinois from traditional production to a more sustainable method. We seek a qualified farmer for an initial five-year lease that could begin as early as 2009 and could be followed by a long-term lease. An operation that could lead to certified organic production is encouraged though not required. Non-certified approaches are expected to operate on the same end of the sustainability spectrum.

In the interest of a successful conversion, the Liberty Prairie Conservancy is willing to entertain discussions regarding improvements to infrastructure that may be necessary.

Site Overview

Casey Farm is located on Highway 21 (Milwaukee Avenue) just north of Highway 137 (Buckley Avenue) in Libertyville, Illinois (see attached map). It features two agricultural fields that have been cultivated for corn and soybeans during the recent past. The eastern field is four acres, comprised primarily of Markham silt loam and Mundelein silt loam. The western field is 16 acres, comprised primarily of Varna silt loam and Elliott silt loam. Preview tours of the property are available, by appointment only, through Steve Barg, executive director of the Liberty Prairie Conservancy. Call 847.548.5989 x 31 or email sbarg@libertyprairie.org. **Preview tours will be offered through Friday, August 29.**

Please provide the following in your proposal:

1. Name, address, phone number and email
2. A business plan that describes what you want to accomplish and a basic three-year start-up budget showing expected capital expenditures, annual operating expenses, and annual revenues sufficient to safely cover all expenditures
3. The type of enterprise proposed (e.g., pick-your-own-raspberries, 57 varieties of vegetables, specialty meats, sheep's milk)
4. Intended production practices, their impact on the environment, and the philosophy behind them
5. A description of the market sought
6. A brief summary of qualifications, including knowledge, skills and experience
7. Plans for staffing by hired personnel, family members or other persons
8. Proposed rent per acre
9. A timeline and narrative describing what you hope to accomplish in one year, three years, five years, ten years, and beyond; a description of assumptions and contingencies
10. A brief description of any infrastructure needs you deem essential to your proposed operation.

Proposals are to be delivered, in writing, to the Liberty Prairie Conservancy office by 4:00 p.m., Monday, September 15, 2008. The Liberty Prairie Conservancy will examine proposals with assistance from farm advisors and reserves the right to request additional information. It is expected that an interview will be part of the selection process.

CONTACT

Steve Barg, Executive Director
Liberty Prairie Conservancy
847.548.5989 x 31
sbarg@libertyprairie.org

REQUIRED INSURANCE

Your company would be required to provide certificates of insurance confirming that it is insured in the categories and amounts listed below.

<u>Coverage</u>	<u>Limits of Liability</u>
General liability-commercial general liability	\$1,000,000 general aggregate \$1,000,000 each occurrence
Comprehensive automobile liability	\$1,000,000 combined single limit per accident for bodily injury, personal injury and property damage
Workman's compensation	Statutory limits in the amount and coverage as required by current regulations
Employer's liability	\$1,000,000 each accident and per disease

All insurance affording the coverage required shall be endorsed to provide a thirty day written notice to be delivered to certificate holder(s) prior to the reduction or cancellation of said coverage. The Liberty Prairie Conservancy shall be named therein as additionally insured. Insurance is to be held with insurers with an A.M. Best rating of no less than seven, and licensed to do business in the State of Illinois.

The Liberty Prairie Conservancy reserves the right to reject any and all proposals if in the best interest of The Liberty Prairie Conservancy.

All proposals shall be valid for a period of one-hundred twenty (120) days.